

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1-18-07
HB 2

rocky mountain rehab p.c.

State of Montana Extended Employment Program

The State of Montana Extended Employment (EE) program provides long-term job support to severely disabled clients of Montana's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. Only those with the severest disabilities are eligible for the program, and without state funding, the services that these individuals need to remain employed would be unavailable to them. Federal matching funds are used to train the clients under VR's Supported Employment program, and once a participant has achieved stability on the job, EE dollars are then used to fund the coaching services that ensure his or her ongoing success as an employee. Rocky Mountain Rehab, P.C. of Billings is VR's contractor and there are 17 subcontractors across the state that directly serve EE clients.

Program Statistics

- The EE program currently serves 260 Montanans with severe disabilities.
- The last legislature approved \$210,000 in expansion funds for the EE program, allowing service providers to help sixty-eight severely disabled Montanans find and maintain employment.
- At present, there are 163 Montanans waiting for EE services.

Request for Funding

- The allocation of \$177,255 for the EE program requested by the Montana Association for Rehabilitation would allow fifty more clients on the statewide waiting list to begin receiving EE services.
- The 6% cost-of-living increase would help to offset the continual rise in expenses that the program's subcontractors have faced over the past five years.

Submitted by Reg Gibbs, Extended Employment program administrator